Servicing of aircraft by HAL

1494. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector aviation giant, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bangalore is now looking at service and maintenance of civil and military aircraft in India and abroad, as a major business opportunity, as servicing aircraft present lucrative propositions;

(b) if so, whether it has selected any partner for setting up a full fledged overhaul facility for civil aircraft, Mirage 2000 and MIG 27 combat jets;

(c) the capital outlay involved in this projects;

(d) how far it will help the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to utilise its existing infrastructure; and

(e) whether Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has also worked on some joint venture offers, if so, its broad features and what efforts are being made by it to find potential customers to use the facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been servicing and overhauling civil and military aircraft for a long time now. It has undertaken civil aircraft maintenance for private airlines/operators with a view to diversifying business and enlarging its customer base. Facilities for overhaul of civil and military aircraft are established with assistance from the original manufacturers. These activities would help in better utilisation of HAL's facilities.

(e) HAL is participating in two joint ventures, one with M/s British Aerospace for computer software and the other with a group of Russian organisations for aeronautical spares, servicing etc.

War threat posed by Pakistan

1495. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has been keeping their forces alert at borders and propose to have a third war with India on Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Government have seriously decided to counter any threat by Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what other preventive measures Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There is no such authentic report with the Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

(d) Government keeps a constant watch on all developments which have a bearing on national security and takes appropriate measures from time to time to ensure full defence preparedness.

Families uprooted due to setting up of Itarsi firing range

1496. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of families that were uprooted at the Itarsi firing range set up in 1972 near Bhopal;

(b) how many of the uprooted families have since been settled and what are the reasons for delay in rehabilitating the remaining families;